

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
COUNCILMEMBER
THIRD DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Councilmember Atkins Announces Third District Staff Appointments

San Diego - Vowing to make good on her inaugural themes of infrastructure repair, constituent service, quality affordable housing and jobs for under-represented communities, Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins recently announced the appointment of an eight-person staff to carry out this mission.

"The key to effective, responsive government is listening to the needs of the people," said Councilmember Toni Atkins. "This is accomplished in large part by having quality, hard-working staff members who know how to listen to citizens' concerns and get them the assistance they need. I'm confident we've assembled a staff that will provide the level of service the residents and business owners of District Three have become accustomed to and deserve."

The staff of Councilmember Atkins:

Jeff Gattas will be Councilmember Atkins' chief of staff. He most recently served as District Director for state Assemblymember Denise Moreno Ducheny. While there he acted as policy and budget advisor, press secretary, and community representative. Jeff will be responsible for overseeing the office staff, board appointments, and press relations. He will also serve as Atkins' senior advisor, including labor issues, the Chargers and Padres, and utilities.

Myrtle Akili returns to the District Three office after a five-year stint as a special events coordinator, specializing in housing fairs, workshops, seminars and street fairs. She will be the representative to the communities of Normal Heights, Kensington and Talmadge, and will be responsible for housing, homeless, joint-use school issues, and land use issues south of Interstate 8. She will serve as Atkins' staff assistant to the ADAPT board, and as the office liaison to the African-American community and the San Diego Unified School District.

George Biagi is a five-year District Three staff veteran, during which time he served as representative to the communities of City Heights, Kensington and Talmadge, and handled press relations, coordinated special events and special orders of business, and acted as liaison to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. He continues in the office as the representative to the communities of North Park, South Park and Golden Hill. He will coordinate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications, monitor infrastructure projects, handle press relations with Chief of

Staff Jeff Gattas, and will continue as special events coordinator and liaison to the LGBT community.

Kim Craig joins the office from the staff of Assemblymember Denise Moreno Ducheny, where she worked since 1996. While there she specialized in health care, housing, and social service issues, and was the representative to the community of City Heights. Prior to that she received her bachelor of arts degree in history from UCSD. Kim will be the representative to City Heights, and will act as Councilmember Atkins' staff assistant on the Rules Committee. She will also handle issues pertaining to the police and fire departments, and will serve as the councilmember's social services liaison and her representative to women's organizations.

Gloria Fishkin has served as office manager to County Supervisor Ron Roberts since 1995, and in the same capacity for eight years prior for Councilmember and later Congressmember Bob Filner. Gloria will serve as both office manager and executive assistant to both Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Jeff Gattas. She will handle office administration, scheduling, and council resolutions.

Steve Hill joins the office after serving on the staff of former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, where he worked on policy issues and communications since April 1999. Prior to that he was the campaign manager for Prop L (the Library Initiative), and for 10 years served on the staffs of state Senators Lucy Killea and Dede Alpert. Steve will represent the institutions in Balboa Park and the communities of Cortez Hill and downtown. He will also be responsible for environmental issues, the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), the arts community, Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT), water issues and the budget.

John Latimer has been a Council Three staff member since February 1995, during which time he served as representative to the communities of Normal Heights, Kensington, Talmadge and City Heights. He also served as Councilmember Kehoe's staff assistant to SANDAG, and was responsible for water and sewer issues, and land use issues south of Interstate 8. He also handled the councilmember's schedule, and served as co-chair of the I-15 Construction Oversight Committee. He will act as representative to the communities of Hillcrest, Bankers Hill and University Heights. John will also coordinate the council and committee dockets for Councilmember Atkins, and will serve as her staff assistant on the Trolley Board and SAFE, as well as monitor the Land Use and Housing (LU&H) and Natural Resources and Culture (NR&C) committees. He will also handle land use issues north of Interstate 8.

Steve Russell recently concluded a four-year tenure as the executive director of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement District. Prior to that he was the City Manager for the Landmark Theatre Corporation for eight years. Steve has been appointed by Councilmember Atkins as her committee consultant to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. As committee consultant he will coordinate the PS&NS docket and meet with individuals, organizations and businesses who have an interest in items before the committee. He will also be responsible for issues pertaining to the Business Improvement Districts and small business, and the Strategic Framework and General Plan, and will act as Councilmember Atkins' staff assistant to the Small Business Advisory Board, MTDB, the Redevelopment Board and the Workforce Partnership.

If you have a matter of concern with which Councilmember Atkins or her staff can assist you, please contact the District Three office at 619/236-6633, or send your E-mail to dist3@cd3.sannet.gov.

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